

June 2009

Enteric Viral Detection

- Change to specimen collection guidelines

To Health Care Providers:

Effective June 15, 2009, specimens of faeces submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for viral detection are to be sent in an empty sterile container. For faeces collection for viral detection, order the Virus Enteric kit. Previously, vials containing viral transport media (VTM) have been used for this purpose. The VTM kit will no longer be available.

The reasons for the change are:

- Faeces specimens submitted in VTM are not suitable for performing rapid tests for rotavirus.
- VTM can dilute the faecal specimen and reduce the sensitivity of electron microscopy which is also done on some of these specimens

Specimens sent in VTM after June 15, 2009 will be rejected for rotavirus rapid testing; they will be accepted for electron microscopy and viral culture.

Note: There has been no change to the existing guidelines for collection of faeces specimens for parasitology or bacteriology investigations.

For Further Information:

- Dr. Jonathan Gubbay, Medical Microbiologist at **416-235-6258**
- Virus Detection Laboratory at **416-235-5731**
- Public Health Laboratory Helpline **1-800-640-7221**
- For the Specimen Collection Guide and previous Labstracts refer to www.oahpp.ca